

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 DPW-01

RSR-01 /058 W

----- 120705

R 191130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 415

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

USDAO SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6765

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT LAST SENTENCE PARA 6.)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE

REF: USDEL JEC PARIS 10847

1. IN A CONVERSATION APRIL 18 WITH MFA (KY), BENNETT INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING THE 7 TH PLENARY (REFTEL). KY AFFIRMED THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE AGENDA AT THE 7 TH PLENARY AND THAT THE GVN WAS STILL HOPING THE PRG WOULD AGREE TO THEIR PROPOSAL THAT ELECTIONS BE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, WITH DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS. KY SAID THAT THE GVN WAS CERTAIN THAT, WERE IT TO AGREE TO PLACING DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA, NO PROGRESS WOULD BE POSSIBLE; AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD SIMPLY USE THE FORUM FOR A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON CIVILIAN DETAINEES. HE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES IS ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION, WHERE THE OTHER SIDE IS ONLY MAKING PROPAGANDA.

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2. KY THEN WENT OVER THE FAMILIAR GROUND OF THE GVN POSITION ON CIVILIAN DETAINEES: (A) THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COME UP WITH A FIGURE OF ONLY 400 GVN DETAINEES (BUT HAVE SO FAR NOT GIVEN ANY NAMES) WHILE THE GVN HAS OFFERED TO RELEASE 5,081 CIVILIAN DETAINEES (OF WHOM THEY HAVE A LIST) AND TO CONSIDER THE CASE OF ANY COMMUNIST PERSON THE OTHER SIDE CLAIMS TO BE HELD BY THE GVN; (B) THE COMMUNISTS REFUSE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE 16,000 GVN OFFICIALS AND CADRES OR THE 50,000 OTHER PERSONS WHOM THE GVN LIST AS IN COMMUNIST HANDS. (KY NOTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS IN DENOUNCING THE GVN POSITION AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO SPECIFICS AND MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO REBUT THE GVN POSITION.)

3. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT SOME PROGRESS IN BREAKING THE LOGJAM IN PARIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH SECRET TALKS, KY HINTED THAT AN EFFORT MAY SOON BE MADE TO DO THIS. HE ADDED THAT PROFESSOR HUY, WHO HAS BEEN BROUGHT BACK FROM PARIS FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, IS DISCUSSING NEW APPROACHES WITH PRESIDENT THIEU NOW. AND WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC HE SAID WE COULD EXPECT TO SEE A "POLITICAL OFFENSIVE" IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO.

4. CONCERNING THE NOTE THE DRV AND PRG RECENTLY DIRCULATED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE, KY OPINED THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO COVER COMMUNIST CONFUSION OVER THEIR SHOOTING DOWN OF THE ICCS HELICOPTER, APRIL 7. HE NOTED THAT THE GVN HAD ACCEPTED THE NOTE FROM THE DRV ON THE THEORY THAT THE DRV WOULD RETURN THE COMPLIMENT THE NEXT TIME THE GVN WANTED TO DELIVER A NOTE TO THEM. THE GVN HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE PRG NOTE (THOUGH THEY HAD COPIED IT) BECAUSE OF ITS POLICY AGAINST RECOGNITION OF THE TITLE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT".

5. BENNETT RAISED WITH KY THE NEED FOR MORE SYSTEMATIC REPORTING TO THE ICCS OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. HE NOTED THAT SUCH SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS AS THE COMMUNIST ATTACK ON THE CONVOY CARRYING SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH, APRIL 10, AND THE ATTACK AND FALL OF THE GVN FIRE SUPPORT BASE HELEN IN THUA THIEN, APRIL 10, DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE ICCS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SUCH VIOLATIONS BE A MATTER OF RECORD WITH THE ICCS AND BE GIVEN FULL PUBLICITY WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY EXPECTATION THAT THE ICCS COULD AGREE ON A FINDING. KY AGREED AND MDAE ANOTE OF THE MATTER.

6. KY WAS ALSO TOLD OF OUR ACUTE UNHAPPINESS THAT AT THE APRIL 17 MEETING OF THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM THREE HOURS WERE SPENT

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TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER BUSINESS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DRV DELEGATION SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 30 RATHER THAN 35 PERSONS. BENNETT MADE THE POINT THAT IT WAS URGENTLY IMPORTANT THAT THE FOUR- PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF ACCOUNTING FOR MIA' S, REMOVING THE REMAINS OF PRISONERS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY, AND INVESTIGATION OF CRASH SITES, NOTING THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, ESPECIALLY THE MANY FAMILIES OF THE MEN INVOLVED, WAS FOLLOWING PROGRESS IN THESE FIELDS VERY CLOSELY. KY SAID HE FULLY APPRECIATED THIS AND THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DRV DELEGATION COULD HAVE FIVE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SEEMED A TRIVIAL MATTER. HE WOULD ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE ON GENERAL HON' S STAFF TO URGE THIS POINT.

BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730451/aaaaiwro.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: USDEL JEC PARIS 10847
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980202
Subject: GVN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE
TAGS: PINT, VS, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
O SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005